



LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021

Time: 6:30 PM -8:30 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Commissioners Julia Forsythe (Chair), Andy Robinson (Vice Chair), Keith March Mistler, Lisa Krinsky, Brooks Harrelson, Susan Ryan-Vollmar, Helene Newberg

Liaisons: Jillian Harvey, Director of Diversity Equity, and Inclusion; Christine Coleman, DEI Admin; Len Diggins, Select Board; Marci Shapiro-Ide, Council on Aging; Rob Lorino, Robbins & Fox Library

Guests: Molly Gillis, Terry Holt, David Valdes, Eric Helmuth, Kari Sasportas, Guillermo Hamlin; Douglas Heim, Town Counsel; Michael Cunningham, Deputy Town Counsel

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. HN assigned as minute-taker.

1. Remote participation statement and guidelines read by JF.
2. Welcome and introductions (include your pronouns if you want to)
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. BH moved to approve consent agenda, SRV seconds, passed unanimously.
4. Election: Chair and Vice-Chair for 2021
 - a. Thanked Julia for her work as the Rainbow Commission Chair
 - b. SRV moves to shift to a co-chair model rather than chair and vice chair; HN seconds, motion carries unanimously
 - c. JF nominates AR and LK as Co-Chairs, SRV seconds. Motion carries unanimously
5. Community Updates & Upcoming Events (10 min)
 - a. Upcoming Virtual Trivia Night on Friday, February 12th, 2021

- b. The library will host a viewing party showing the movie, The Prom on February 9th, 2021.
 - c. MSL looking to schedule another potential SAGE Table event in March.
 - d. JH notes that she is involved in planning Town Read programming for the book “Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?”
 - e. Sixty residents are attending Community Racial Justice Teach-Ins (90 signed up)
 - f. RL notes library events: QBG social Jack box game last Wednesday of Month; February, reading: Oranges are not the Only Fruit; March will be a queer-themed event regarding the Town Read book
- 6. Liaison Updates (15 min)
 - a. Chief Flaherty accepted suggestions for APD Trans Policy, unable to attend January meeting
 - b. MG notes the Brackett school DIG is bringing in PFLAG.
 - c. Noted that in light of racially-questionable sounding school communications whether town and/ or school have directors of communication
- 7. Working Group Updates (10 min)
 - a. KMM: ARC will present/introduce ourselves to the Arlington School Committee (KMM and MG) to present on February 25th.
 - b. AR: Please have a look at the active Working Group document in the shared drive to check your commitments and review the structure for appropriateness to our current work.
 - c. Municipal Equality Index Questions and Update: Final report card is now public. JH would like a meeting with the working group (now headed by HN in light of co-chair situation) to address scorecard, town policies; there is also a community member interested in attending.
- 8. Envision Arlington
 - a. Envision Arlington survey is live through March 1 with questions about experiencing discrimination and comfort level working with APD.
- 9. Domestic Partnerships
 - a. Domestic Partnerships Bylaw Proposal (GH,MC, DH)
 - b. SRV moves that the ARC support the warrant article as proposed by GH and drafted by MC; AR seconds; motion carries unanimously.
- 10. Communication Update
 - a. No updates
- 11. Public Engagement and Open Commentary
 - a. None

8:18pm: BH moved to adjourn meeting, AR seconds, meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: February 18th, 2021, 6:30 pm, Remote Participation

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.